

# THE NOVA SCOTIAN SURVEYOR

Spring 2020

No. 207



THESE ARE TRYING TIMES...



## CONTENTS PAGE

|  |  |           |
|--|--|-----------|
| <b>President's Report</b> .....                                | <i>Kevin Lombard</i> .....                 | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Vice-President's Report</b> .....                           | <i>Peter Berrigan</i> .....                | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>Executive Director's Report</b> ..                          | <i>Tina Tucker</i> ..                      | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>Survey Review Manager's Report</b> .....                    | <i>Paul Harvey</i> .....                   | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>Blast from the Past</b> .....                               | <i>May 1955, Volume 2, Number 23</i> ..... | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>Promotion of the Profession</b> ...                         | <i>John Conn</i> ..                        | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>Notes on the side of the Road</b> ..                        |  | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>Obituaries</b> .....  |  | <b>11</b> |
| <b>How a Land Surveyor Can Get Involved in the Community</b> . | <i>Crystal Surette</i> .....               | <b>12</b> |
| <b>New Member</b> ..   | <i>Thomas Mombourquette</i> .....          | <b>13</b> |
| <b>Young Surveyor Profile – Focus on Alice Williams</b> ....   | <i>Tina Tucker</i> ..                      | <b>15</b> |
| <b>COGS Awards</b> .....                                       | <i>NSCC Lawrencetown</i> ....              | <b>16</b> |
| <b>2019 AGM Minutes</b> ....                                   |  | <b>17</b> |

## THE NOVA SCOTIAN SURVEYOR

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*Kevin Lombard, NSLS, P.Eng.*



I was unable to attend the ANBLS AGM, but we were well represented by Peter Berrigan who attended in my place. Peter has provided a summary of his experience at that meeting.

It was my pleasure to represent our association at AOLS AGM in Huntsville, Ontario. The meeting was well attended, and it was a pleasure to see over a dozen new surveyors obtain their certificates. I did see some items that I hope to add our 2020 AGM. The issue of finding qualified staff was brought to the floor by the membership. Enrollment in geomatics/surveying programs is down across the country and many feel this will create significant issues to our profession in the not too distant future. This was also a topic brought up at the presidents meeting.



*Group Photograph, Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding to formalize commitment to work on national issues was signed by representatives of the other provincial surveying associations and the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors (ACLS) (2/28/20)*

An intriguing issue brought up by the Quebec president was the issue of artificial intelligence. I must admit most of us at the table did not originally grasp the

concept, but we did eventually understand the potential risk to our profession. With so much of our information in digital form, it may be possible in the future for artificial intelligence to generate a plan, deed or survey solely based on the data in the registry.

Quebec is exploring legislation to ensure that this would stay within the realm of professional surveying. Protection of the public, and our (professional associations) accountability to the public was also a major topic of discussion in Ontario, and based on those discussions, I believe the Nova Scotia public is well served by our Association.



It was my pleasure to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on behalf of our Association. I wish to thank those presidents who took part in the preliminary discussions, which lead to the final version, which I signed at the AOLS AGM.

The Objective of this MOU is to foster collaboration between the professional land surveying associations and their respective members to examine current land surveying governance practices and regulations, and to review potential concepts of future governance of professional regulation in Canada. The Associations will also promote sharing and adopting best practices in surveying and geomatics that are in the best interest of the public.

As a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, the ABCLS 2020 AGM, originally scheduled for March 19-20, has been rescheduled. I attended both the ABCLS and the ALSA AGM's online.

Our ANSLS Council has scheduled monthly meetings using the Go-To-Meeting app and this has proven to be very cost effective and productive. This application will prove to be essential for the continued work of the Association staff and volunteers as we manage the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak in the workplace.

Given the current state of affairs, I wish for good health to all of us. Be safe.





## **VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*Peter Berrigan, P.Eng., NSLS*



I was excited to have the opportunity to attend the first AGM of 2020 at the Association of New Brunswick Land Surveyors Convention in Moncton, New Brunswick, on behalf of our President, Kevin Lombard from January 23<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>.

For myself, it was a bit of a step back in time as I was able to reconnect with several members whom I graduated from the University of New Brunswick in the mid 1990's.

The President's Forum took place late in the afternoon of January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Other Provincial Associations in attendance included British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and lastly the State of Maine.

Each Association had an opportunity to speak about current or upcoming items of interest. These included Self Governance and Transparency, Teranet providing coordinate values to the Public, Survey Review with Discipline, Filling positions on Association Committees, Digital Plan submissions and lastly a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Professional Land Surveyor Associations to examine current surveying governance practices and to promote the best practices in the best interest of the public.

These, of course, are discussion topics we are all too familiar with and understand we too must soon have a plan of action in place rather than continued discussion.

A very interesting topic of discussion related to the Hierarchy of Evidence. When will a coordinate point

be included as an item to consider in the Hierarchy of Evidence? As we become more involved in the coordinated world, this will be an item of discussion in the future.

On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, several short seminars were presented to the Membership. This was a good format as no one speaker had more than 30 minutes to speak with additional time to entertain questions and general discussion from the membership of those in attendance.

Topics/Presentations for the day included; Best Practices for RTK and NRTK Surveys, A Guide to Sight Distance Measurement (Stopping Sight Distance), A Guide to Septic Assessment and Soil Testing, New Brunswick Provincial Archives and lastly the US is replacing NAD83: What does this mean for Canada?

Being heavily involved in the On-site Sewage Disposal Industry, I was excited to see that New Brunswick Land Surveyors must do soil testing and soil assessments on new lots themselves. There is no Qualified Person Program in New Brunswick, like in Nova Scotia. New Brunswick Land Surveyors do see the opportunity in this industry as who better to plan the driveway, water well, dwelling and septic bed location on a property. New Brunswick currently has 11 septic inspectors in the Province. By potentially involving the land survey association, this could increase the number to 55 and move the current Provincial inspectors to more of an enforcement agency. New Brunswick Land Surveyors have the opportunity to be the full stakeholders in the Qualified Person Program, where Nova Scotia Land Surveyors missed out back in 1997.

January 24<sup>th</sup> involved the Business Meeting portion of the New Brunswick Land Survey Association. The format followed that of our own association. The topic that generated the most discussion dealt with the requirement to prepare/record a survey plan when a pin is placed. Much of the discussion was similar to what we had in Nova Scotia when proposing the same idea. Justifying fees / cost for such a service but ignoring the thought that we must promote the service, we provide and charge accordingly for the service that best serves and protects the public.

In all, I enjoyed the experience and very much look forward to continuing as your Vice President.



## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT**

*Tina Tucker, MA, MEd*

Nothing like baptism by fire! I was just getting my feet wet as the new Executive Director when the pandemic landed with full force on our personal and professional lives. As you know, we made the decision to close our office on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Since that time, staff has mostly worked remotely, only coming into the office when necessary. This has presented challenges for everyone and I want to acknowledge and thank staff for their efforts – Cathy McInnis, Paul Harvey, and Alexandra Ottenbrite. Due to these efforts, with some minor delays, we have been able to carry on business as usual. One major interruption for me has been not getting out around the province to meet members. While virtual meetings have alleviated some of this interruption, I am eager to meet members at their place of work. Another disruption due to the pandemic is the Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors (CBEPS) having to cancel the previously scheduled March exam session for candidates. CBEPS staff are now working with us to organize safe venues to write exams in June, if possible.

### **The New Virtual Reality**

By now, you would have seen our email notice asking for input on agenda items for virtual Zone meetings. Members of Council have been concerned that in these difficult times, when colleagues need each other the most, there is a possibility that the restrictions currently in place by Chief Medical Officer could go on for months. You need to hear from each other and from your Zone Councillors. Although not ideal, Council has decided to push ahead with virtual meetings that, while never the same as in-person meetings, can go a long way in filling information gaps and providing at least some opportunity for networking. These online meetings do, however, require a little more structure and pre-planning than in-person meetings. Please let your Zone Councillor know what topics you would like to have addressed, what concerns you have, what ideas you would like to share with colleagues.

Our Annual General Meeting, scheduled for October 14 – 17, is also of concern in terms of the size of groups that may be allowed to gather at that time. We are in contact with the hotel, will stay informed about the worrisome potential for a “second wave”, and will make arrangements, if necessary, for the business portion of the meeting to proceed on a virtual platform.

### **Strategic Planning**

I want to thank the Strategic Planning Committee for their patience with getting our strategic planning process underway. I really needed some time to learn about the Association before delving into a task as important as this. We had our kick-off meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. This short but productive meeting focused on logistics – Who to include in planning process? Who to include in the consultation process? Which tools to use to gather input from stakeholders? We reviewed some basic questions that will help us over the coming months to form our strategy: How well are we set-up/positioned for the future? Are we positioned for success in our future environment? If not, what are the key issues and opportunities we must address? What do we need to be able to do to be successful in the future? – what we do for whom and how will we deliver it? Which issues/opportunities are we going to focus on first? What resources will we need to make the necessary changes? Our next meeting will focus on developing survey questions for our members and for external stakeholders.

### **Highlights from Council**

Council approved a request from CBEPS and ACLS for support of a new initiative called “Towards an online degree in land surveying/geomatics”. Some details from this request include the fact that a task force has been struck and has the mandate to look into the possibility of offering on-line or blended university level course to candidates to the land surveying profession to cover all subjects of the CBEPS National Syllabus, with the long-term goal of facilitating the setting up of a complete land surveying degree program available on-line. Specific project objectives include: 1. An up-to-date National Syllabus 2. A new accreditation process for current and future learning institutions programs leading to a degree in land surveying/geomatics, that leans towards a model where CBEPS sets the minimum acceptable standards within, which the institutions can manoeuvre more freely. 3. A clear path to a Canadian online degree in land surveying/geomatics in collaboration with the 6-degree granting educational institutions.

A new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Professional Land Surveyors Partnership in Statutory Governance was approved by Council in February.

*(Cont'd on Pg 6)*

*Cont'd from Pg 5)*

This MOU is between the Professional Land Surveyors Associations of Canada, henceforth called the Partners. It asserts that parties to this MOU wish to build on existing relationships to strengthen effective and coordinated approaches to governance of the survey profession by consultation activities and initiatives to the extent possible. The objective of this MOU is to foster collaboration between the professional land surveying associations and their respective members to examine current land surveying governance practices and regulations, and to review potential concepts of future governance of professional regulation in Canada. The Associations will also promote sharing and adopting best practices in surveying and geomatics that are in the best interest of the public. This document does not create a binding agreement between the Associations and will not be enforceable. The Associations are not prevented from entering negotiations with other third parties. And equally important, agreeing to this MOU does not suggest any commitment to amend the rule, regulations, and practices of each respective association. In terms of structure and representation, each Association will appoint their Executive Director, or other designated representative of their Association, as representative for a term of three years, or until the MOU is rescinded.

Council approved a request for a letter of support from the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) for the resurrection of their Geomatics Committee. This support does not require volunteer time from our members.

Hearing concerns from members about managing work practices in this new Covid-19 environment, Council undertook to develop suggestions, collected from a variety of trusted sources, to serve as a resource for our members. The ANSLS sent the document, "Suggestions for Work Processes during Covid-19," to our Members in late April. We have since had requests from other provincial jurisdictions to post this resource on their websites. And of course, Council and our membership have benefitted from the support and good practical advice shared by our Survey Review Department Manager, Paul Harvey.

Regarding the sale of our building, Council continues to monitor progress on approvals for the Twin Lakes Development. I received an update from David Zareski this week stating that they have completed several revisions to their application as requested by the various HRM Departments, and are now waiting for a review by the Legal Department. Once Legal has

signed off, staff will set a date for a Public Hearing and vote by Community Council. When they have final approval, they will contact us to discuss details of our agreement. The expected timeline for Council to hear back from Mr. Zareski on these actions is two months.

**Compliance with the Fair Registration Practices Act**  
On May 12<sup>th</sup>, I participated in a virtual "field visit" with Patricia Mertins, Fair Registration Practices Act (FRPA) Review Officer with the Department of Labour and Advanced Education. The role of the Review Office is to work with regulatory bodies to identify changes that will allow them to comply with the Act. The focus of this visit was to review progress made on actions recommended in previous reports.

Over the next several months, I will work with members of Council and members of the Nova Scotia Board of Examiners to create or improve the following processes and policies: improved website navigation that will include easily accessible registration requirements, forms and clear steps of the registration process for CFTA applicants and international applicants; a new policy on internal reviews of registration decisions (FRPA reference Section 7(a), 10 & 11); new policy on communicating registration decisions (Section 8); a new policy for accommodation of applicants with physical and mental Disabilities (FRPA reference Section 16(3)(h)); a new policy for accepting alternative information to required documentation (FRPA reference Section 9(b), 16(3)(c)); and access to records requests (FRPA reference Section 12, 16(3)(j)).

On a related note, I recently had my first meeting with our national Labour Mobility Coordinating Committee. Professional Surveyors Canada, under the Free Trade Agreement, has developed a mutual Recognition Agreement on Labour Mobility for Land Surveyors in Canada, which establishes a uniform standard within Canada for registration as a land surveyor. The focus of the meeting was to find consensus on minor changes to the "Mutual Recognition Agreement on Labour Mobility for Land Surveyors in Canada, Schedule B". The Committee agreed that moving forward, applicants will have defined waiting periods before being allowed to take the jurisdictional exam for the third time and for subsequent attempts.

I want to give a special shout out to Fred Hutchinson for his work on updating the provincial statutes section of the ANSLS jurisdictional exam. This was no easy task and I thank him for his time and ongoing commitment to the Association.



## SURVEY REVIEW MANAGER'S REPORT

*Paul J. Harvey, NSLS*



During these stressful times, I thought I would jot down some thoughts about surveying and life during a pandemic:

- **Social distancing:** Self-isolation and social distancing are having a dramatic impact on every business and profession. Surveyors, who often rely on verbal testimony from clients and adjoiners are absolutely being impacted. So often adjoiners provide invaluable information for the surveyor. Losing this is a major hurdle in carrying out retracement surveys. Office staff, field crews and surveyors themselves must “keep their distance”. Travel to and from jobsites, examining evidence, checking plans and computations and general discussions regarding issues are all considerations adding time and costs to every aspect of work.
- **Work from home:** So often work in a survey office is suitable to move to a “home office”. Computers make this a real possibility. On-line meetings, email, screen sharing etc. make the home office a real possibility. We lose comradery, which is so important and rewarding in our offices!
- **Client interaction:** Again, this social distancing becomes an issue. We may feel that virtual meetings and other technologies will enable our client ample opportunity to interact with us. I hope that is true.

- **Cash flow:** Many people are going to be financially strapped through this time of turmoil. The regular flow of business has been impacted. Tight budgets may impact our accounts receivable as funds dry up in the general population. I fear the government can only do so much.
- **Daily activities:** Lunches, coffee breaks, overnight stays for crews and general transportation costs are issues. A new concept we must deal with.
- **Meetings:** Meetings with realtors, developers, lawyers, engineers, contractors and so on; a complete change from the normal.
- **Mental health:** Stress, loneliness, fear, and lack of control of our situation can be difficult. We must work hard on looking after our own health, but also be mindful of others. Our worries are no doubt similar to the worries of everyone else out there; be compassionate!

These are but a few of my thoughts. You no doubt, have many more that I can't imagine. In this time of turmoil, practicing our profession is more challenging, more complex, more costly. So many concerns piled on top of the daily normal. God give you strength!

My hope is that everyone comes out of this healthy, happy and with as few bruises as possible. We are all impacted and staying at home, while advisable, is not in our nature. We are social beasts; we need others. I, like everyone else, wish for this to end, and it will!

I am beginning to use video conferencing more, but while it may save mileage, it really is different from being there. It may however be the best way to stay in touch. One positive result so far from this self-isolation: my wife and I still like each other!

Stay well. We will come out stronger. If we at the office can help in any way, reach out please! 🙏



**BLAST FROM THE PAST**

This article is from the Nova Scotian Surveyor dated May 1955  
Volume 2, Number 3, Page 6

## Let's Improve Land Survey Records

"Many current practices in and surveying are crude and outdated," says R. Getty Browning, Chief Locating Engineer, North Carolina Highway Commission. "Instrument work has become increasingly accurate through the years, but recording has not kept pace.

"Need for improvement is immediately apparent to anyone retracing a previous survey. Descriptions have often been so hastily and inefficiently written and markers so carelessly placed that it is almost impossible to follow the previous man's work.

"Here's how we can improve the quality and lasting value of our surveys:

1. Permanent monuments, referenced carefully, should always be established at the time of the survey.
2. All bearings should be referred to true North, and all measurements between monuments should be the horizontal distance.
3. Survey should be checked by latitude and departure methods and corrected to bring it within standards consistent with type of land being surveyed.

4. A map should be drawn from corrected field notes and filed with county surveyor.

5. An accurate description, fully describing various corners and reference points, should accompany the map.

6. A sheet showing computations should also be filed, together with a copy of the surveyor's report—telling for whom survey was made, when it was completed, what procedure was followed.

"For some time, many engineers have proposed a geometric coordinate system for the entire nation. Before we can benefit from such a plan, we must first properly delineate the small tracts which will fit into it.

"Standardizing on such a simple, practical plan would put an end to haphazard work; eliminate confusion; protect the landowner and the community; and increase the prestige of the profession.

"This problem has bothered me since 1902, when I assisted a Maryland surveyor whose specialty was unraveling complicated surveys. Progress can be made only with surveyors and engineers using their influence to bring about a change."

### PROMOTION OF THE PROFESSION

**Presentation to the Nova Scotia Community College – Ivany Campus, Property Paralegal Class,  
February 27, 2020.**

By John D. Conn, BA, NSLS  
Thompson Conn Limited  
Member of the NSCC Geomatics Program Advisory Committee

This presentation was informal with lots of questions from the senior and junior classes. I spoke about how to become a surveyor, the different types of surveying, and how to become a Nova Scotia Land Surveyor. I discussed the types of surveying our firm does on a day to day basis and how we interact with paralegals.

I reviewed with examples; location certificates, condominiums, legal plans, descriptions, statutory declarations by a land surveyor and expert reports. I illustrated a few examples where a location certificate would have shown significant issues, such as the Salmon River that was on CBC and other news sources. We looked at the NSCRS viewer on how these issues could have been discovered by simply looking at this site. Even the instructors who were sitting in, had no idea the NSCRS site was available at no cost. We looked at property online. Although they did have exposure to it, we reviewed how to search plans and deeds. ☒

Notes from the Side of the Road .....



### **MEMBERSHIP STATUS**

Darryl Spidle, NSLS #419, resigned his full membership in January 2020.

Stewart Setchell, NSLS # 513, resigned his full membership in January 2020.

Frank Gillis, NSLS # 599, resigned his full membership in January 2020.

Robert Ashley, NSLS # 600, resigned his retired membership in January 2020.

Lee Chaulk, NSLS # 672, joined the Department of Lands & Forestry in January 2020.

Cyril LeBlanc, NSLS # 550, resigned his full membership in April 2020.

Edward Hingley, NSLS # 342, moved to retired membership effective June 1, 2020.

### **CANDIDATE STATUS**

Rory Roach applied in December 2019, and is currently employed with Prendergast Surveys Ltd.

Kristin Sheffer applied in April 2020 and is currently employed with Alderney Surveys Ltd.

### **NEW MEMBERS**

Brent MacKenzie, NSLS # 680, received his commission in October 2019 and is currently employed with MacLean Surveying Inc.

Thomas Mombourquette, NSLS # 681, received his commission in February 2020 and is currently employed with Dept. of Lands & Forestry.

### **COMPANIES**

Custom Fabricators & Machinists Ltd. is no longer a certified surveying company effective January 2020.

Altus Geomatics Group is no longer a certified surveying company effective May 2020.

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*The Association is always looking for detail information on any member for our issues of The Nova Scotian Surveyor. If anyone would like to add anything to our collection, please contact us by email: [admin@ansls.ca](mailto:admin@ansls.ca), or mail to: 325-A Prince Albert Road, Dartmouth, NS B2Y 1N5*

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## OBITUARIES

**CAMERON, BRIAN JAY, NSLS #358** – Age 72 of Bridgeville, NS, passed away on January 31, 2020, surrounded by his family. He was the son of the late *Hoyes A. Cameron, NSLS #18* and W. Kathleen Cameron. Brian articulated under his father and H.B. Robertson, NSLS #124 and received his NSLS commission in 1969. He had a 28-year career as a Nova Scotia Land Surveyor with the Dept of Lands & Forests and his remaining working years with Landmark Survey Limited as a Technician. He later resigned his commission in 2005. Brian was someone who liked to make his point in as few words as possible and kept his personal life private. He liked to find humor in every aspect of life. He was kind to everyone. He had a 52-year hobby of making maple syrup. Papa/Poppy was a master at wiggling his ears; for added effect, he would attach clothespins to the delight of his grandchildren. Brian also took great pleasure in playing the fiddle and piano. He was a member of the Bridgeville United Church. Joe is survived by his wife Christy, his daughter Sheila (Calum) MacPherson, Kilmorack, Scotland, sons; Duncan (Jennifer) Bridgeville, NS, Neil (Lynsey), Toronto, ON. Grandchildren; Christy and Duncan MacPherson and Jane Cameron. He is also survived by his only sister Kathy (Brian) Campbell. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his granddaughter, Erin M. Cameron. Donations may be made to Bridgeville United Church.

**CARRICK, ROBERT “KENT” NSLS # 356** – Age 75 of West River Station, NS, passed away on February 6, 2020, in Aberdeen Hospital, New Glasgow. He was a son of the late John Joseph Carrick and Eileen June Webber. Kent attended school in New Glasgow and then attended a one-year engineering program at Dalhousie before being employed with the International Harvester Co. in Burlington ON. After graduating from NSLSI in 1967, he articulated under R.J. Donovan, NSLS # 232, and received his NSLS commission in 1969. In 1971, he began his own surveying business R.K. Carrick Surveying Ltd. Kent was involved in the association committees. He retired his business and commission in 2012 and was still a retired member when he passed. He enjoyed fishing at Barney’s River and several lakes in northern Ontario. Kent is survived by his wife, Jessie (Gratto); step-children, Wayne MacKenzie, James MacKenzie, Muriel MacKenzie, Alvin MacKenzie, Janie MacKenzie, Harvey MacKenzie, and Ron MacKenzie; his sisters, Judy Rogers, Gina Hewitt, Kathy Morow and Susan Pipher; brothers, Michael, Neil, Shawn, Kevin, Joseph, Timothy and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his sister, Laura Lee Carrick.

**MacLELLAN, CYRUS JOSEPH “JOE”, NSLS # 273** – Age 90 of Antigonish, NS, passed away peacefully from natural causes with family at his side on March 31, 2020 in Green Meadows Community Residence, Antigonish, NS. Joe was born in the Bronx, New York City. He was the son of the late Margaret (Chisholm) MacLellan (Antigonish) & Cyrus J. MacLellan Sr. (PEI). Joe enlisted in the U.S Navy in 1950 and was stationed in San Diego, California. In 1957, Joe graduated taking an Engineering program at St. Francis Xavier University. In 1959, received his B.Eng. at Nova Scotia Tech (now Dalhousie University). Received his PLS commission in 1960. Shortly thereafter, worked with J. Philip Vaughan Engineering Associates Ltd. and the City of Halifax, before returning to Antigonish to work on the expansion of the St.FX campus. In 1972, Joe established C. J. MacLellan & Associates Ltd. Joe articulated many “surveyor-in-training” surveyors, which resulted in the success in their careers. Joe served on ANSLS Council in 1974-1975. He retired his NSLS commission in 1992 and resigned in 1993. Joe was President of the Engineers Nova Scotia, member of Association of Professional Engineers of Nova Scotia, member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers, member of the Board of Directors of the Technical University of Nova Scotia (TUNS), President of the Antigonish Highland Society, member of the Board of Directors Braemore Co-op, Grand Knight of St. Ninian’s Knights of Columbus, member of Antigonish Town Council, and many other organizations. He cherished his long-time role with Campaign Life Coalition and often reminded people that with ten children, he had solid Pro-Life credentials. He and Marcella attended the National March for Life each May in Ottawa. Joe’s favourite hobby was being on his sailboat with his wife Cella. They would sail to Pictou, Prince Edward Island, Bras d’Or Lakes and his favourite sailing was done in St. George’s Bay, Antigonish. It was not uncommon for him to take 8 or 10 kids with him at a time and give them the most memorable summer days. Joe is survived by his children, Edwin (Stephanie), Sydney, CB; Janis (Alphonse) PEI; Anne (Rudy), Moncton, NB; Leon (Pauline), Antigonish; Marie (Clay), Edmonton; Cyrus, Deddum, MA; Joan, Antigonish; Nancy (Tom), Lancaster, England; and Kevin (Cheryl), Alberta; sister Loretta Baker; 30 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. Joe was predeceased by wife Marcella Gerarda, son Michael, sisters Margie Gillis, Joan Gilfoxy, Theresa MacLellan, and family member Michael MacPherson. Online condolences: [www.clcurry.com](http://www.clcurry.com)

## How a Land Surveyor Can Get Involved in the Community

By Crystal Surette



Having grown up in a small, rural, coastal community in south eastern Nova Scotia, I learned the true value of people helping people. There was no wealth, but in this small community of hard-working individuals, I've learned the morals and values that follow me to this day. Helping

organizations along the way, such as; the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the Cancer Society, local food banks, SPCA, local music events, and fund-raisers for individuals in need.

As an active member of the community, I believe volunteerism and community to be very important parts of a balanced lifestyle. There is great satisfaction in standing side by side with others who so selflessly give their time and share their talents for the betterment of the community in which they live. Not only individual people can be involved in the community, but companies can also play a very important role in supporting communities.

Many companies, large or small, are regularly inundated with requests for donations and other forms of support for various organizations that support community initiatives, making it difficult to decide where to donate, or even what organizations/causes they want to be affiliated with. Most companies do not have the financial resources to significantly impact any one cause in an appreciable way. They may even find themselves making decisions that are more influenced by how much money they have at that moment, than how much of an impact that donation is actually going to have or their employees, their communities or their clients. One of the most impactful ways of helping companies with limited resources and have a meaningful impact on their communities, is to set up a formal Corporate Social Responsibility/Values Code and a formal company Volunteer Program.

Having employees decide on key initiatives or values (i.e. We are committed to educating the public and future generations about our profession) through a survey or voting, can provide a lens through which to consider donations of time, money or company resources, which allows employees to impact their workplace in a way that is meaningful to everyone. Following up company values with a program that rewards or supports employees volunteering for organizations, or events that align with those values is a great way to increase the company's reach and image, and at the same time, improve retention and employee engagement. All active Beairsto & Associates Engineering Ltd. employees volunteering their time or services may apply to be compensated for up to 40 hours of their wages at their regularly hourly rate. Therefore, having the company support the employee, which in turn supports the community.



Recently, I became involved on the advisory committee and team leader for the City of Grande Prairie's Point in Time Count for the homeless. This year, I plan to do the same, as it was very rewarding to

be part of a committee that helps support the goal of ending homelessness in our city.

Since its inception in 2017, I have chaired the Hillside Neighborhood Association. Although I was a new resident at the time, I quickly learned about the history and all that motivates the community. The Association thought of a plan to beautify the community by first planting an orchard so that future generations can enjoy the fruits of our labour. From there, we supported the Hillside School to become involved by getting planter boxes and interactive outdoors games.

*(Cont'd on Pg 13)*

*(Cont'd from Pg 12 )*

The Association also takes part in the yearly City Scrub project and hosts community BBQs and events. This year, the association will be taking part in planting a second orchard and partnering with the Canadian Motorcycle Tourism Association to construct a Veterans Memorial Garden and Interpretive Centre.



You may be wondering how being a land surveyor relates to this article.

Along with all the fun outdoor activities in which we are involved, the association is very involved in the Hillside Area Revitalization Plan, which includes new and upgraded trails and sidewalks, utilities and roads, entrance and road signs, zoning, parks, bylaws, policies and procedures. We are actively meeting with city councillors, planners, and engineers to bring forth concepts to ensure the community has a voice. As a land surveyor, I have provided fundamental leadership and knowledge related to the community’s advancement due to my educational background and deep understanding of city development. I would encourage other members of the land surveying community to share their talents with their community.

Crystal Surette was born in Antigonish, NS. Received her diploma at NSCC COGS for Survey Technician in 2005, and Geomatics Engineering Technology in 2006. She later received Geodesy of Geomatics at UNB in 2010. Articled with Nathan Clark, NSLS # 627, in 2010 – 2012; until she moved to Alberta in 2012. She later received her licence in 2015.



### Congratulations to our newest member!

THOMAS MOMBOURQUETTE, NSLS # 681



Thomas was born in Halifax. Received his certificate for Survey Technician in 2012 and Geomatics Engineering Technology in 2013 at NSCC COGS. He worked as a survey crew chief and survey assistant with Allison Land Surveys Ltd. in 2011 – 2015. He later received his diploma in Bachelor of Technology at British Columbia Institute of Technology in 2015 and worked with Tim Wamboldt Surveys Ltd. in 2016. He received his NSLS licence in February 2020.



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- Steaphan MacAulay, VP Transportation & Infrastructure



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## Young Surveyor Profile - Focus on Alice Williams

By Tina Tucker

*This will be a recurring feature in The Nova Scotian Surveyor. Anyone willing to take part in an interview is welcome to contact the Executive Director, Tina Tucker, via email: [tina.tucker@ansl.ca](mailto:tina.tucker@ansl.ca)*



*How did you get interested in land surveying as a career?*

I stumbled upon the Geodesy and Geomatics Engineering Department at UNB while working for the University doing campus tours. I got to know one of the professors. After learning more about the program, I decided to return to school to complete my Engineering degree.

*Where did you get your education? Describe some of the challenges, great things about your experience as a student.*

**Education:** Geomatics Engineering at UNB (2015). Prior to that, I completed a B.Sc. in Mathematics (2012).

I condensed my program when I returned to school, often completing 6 - 7 courses per semester. As a result, I was taking many advanced courses before having field survey experience. After gaining some field experience and returning to school, I learned the value in bringing that field experience back to school and applying it. It's necessary to paint the full picture and you get so much more out of your education with it.

*What have been some highlights of your career, favorite things about your job? Biggest challenges?*

Surveying has taken me some interesting places I wouldn't have lived otherwise: Living in Alberta and exploring the Rockies, working near Lake Superior in Ontario and bringing me back home to Nova Scotia.

I would say my biggest challenges in my first couple of years out of school arose from not asking enough questions early on. When you're new there can be a tendency to hold back in fear, that you should already know the answer. Ask all the questions you can from the experienced people around you, to avoid missing valuable learning opportunities. This is crucial in your early career.

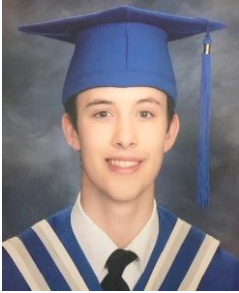
*Where are you working now? How long? Your role?*

I work at Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC). I've been there almost two years. I work within the Land Surveys group at PSPC. We procure survey work required on Government of Canada owned lands for PSPC properties and other Government Departments (DFO, Transport Canada, Canada Wildlife Service, etc.). We also maintain the inventory of PSPC properties and on behalf of other government departments, including any acquisition or disposal documentation, current extent of ownership, survey plans, etc., which is reported to the Directory of Federal Real Property.

*What could help get more women into the profession? What advice do you have for career counsellors and teachers who may be asked by female students about the profession?*

In my time at UNB, I noticed an increase in women taking the geomatics program and in other engineering disciplines as well. UNB had a "women in engineering recruitment" program that appeared to be successful, which included pairing prospective students with a female undergraduate student to sit in on a few classes and see what the program is like. I think the biggest part of that is the personalized approach, as it gives them a mentor, they can ask questions. This could be applied in promoting the land surveying profession. Having the ability to ask questions to women with experience in a largely male dominated field and learn about their experiences can encourage women to get involved ✦

## RECIPIENTS OF 2020 COGS AWARDS



### ERIC GRENIER

Recipient of the James A. Church Award. Eric was born in Antigonish, NS. He enjoys Fishing, camping, basketball, and time with animals. Studied at NSCC COGS as a survey technician and is employed as a survey technician for Dexter's construction. Was previously a survey assistant with Strum Consulting as a summer student. Eric's career goal is to be a NSLS member, and either own his own company, or manage a branch of a larger company.



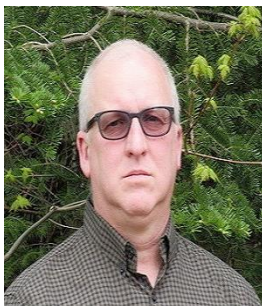
### BERNARD HANIFEN

Recipient of the George T. Bates Award. Bernard graduated from Dr. J. H. Gillis Regional High School. He later received his Bachelor of Science in Human Kinetics at St. FX University and began working for Elite Balsam, a Christmas Tree company that ships internationally. It was during this experience that Bernard realized he wanted a career of the outdoors but was also craving an intellectual challenge. While having a conversation with his father, about his uncle Edward Hanifen, NSLS #328, and his surveying work, Bernard realized a career in surveying was exactly the challenge he was looking for. The most enjoyable experience at COGS was listening to Neil Ormerod's stories. These not only provided a fun learning environment, but also helped put concepts into perspective. Bernard is currently working for Alva Construction in Antigonish and can be found laying out culverts and catch basins. He is looking forward to returning to COGS in the fall.



### ADAM MACNEIL

Recipient of the JER March Award. Adam grew up Beaver Bank, NS and graduated from Lockview High School in Fall River, NS. Then went to Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland for a few years but was not a great fit, so he decided to look into NSCC. Adam had a few friends whose parents or grandparents were surveyors, so when he saw that program on the NSCC listing, he thought he would give it a try. He had a great time learning at COGS and really enjoyed the mixture of fieldwork and class learning. Adam is currently working for Dexter Construction.



### KEVIN OICKLE

Recipient of John S. Pope Award. Kevin was born in Bridgewater, NS and graduated from Parkview Education Center in Bridgewater in 1984. He graduated from NSCC Lunenburg Campus with a diploma as an Electronic Engineering Technician in 1992. Kevin returned to school at NSCC COGS and received his Survey Technician certificate in June 2019. He surveyed with Berrigan Surveys Limited in the summer of 2019 and then returned to COGS and received his Geomatics Engineering Technologist diploma in May 2020. Kevin has recently been hired by Tulloch Engineering in Ottawa, Ontario and is awaiting the borders to open, due to the pandemic, to take up his role within that firm. In the future, he hopes to pursue his career in Nova Scotia. He enjoys being in nature and travelling and felt that this new career in surveying married all his interests. Kevin enjoyed the field work where they put all the theory learned into practice. The team environment, along with the work, created many remarkable memories.



Minutes of the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting  
 Association of Nova Scotia Land Surveyors  
 Holiday Inn, Truro, NS  
 October 17 – 19, 2019

**Friday, October 18, 2019**

Meeting called to order at 9:05 AM by President Clark

Opening ceremonies:

President Nathan Clark opened the meeting by stating: “This meeting will be governed by Roberts Rules of Order and common sense. Each member wishing to speak shall approach the microphone, state his or her name **or** be recognized by the chair. Speaking to a motion will be to a maximum of FIVE minutes and limited to one time only until all wishing to speak have had a chance. If time remains, members may speak a second time. Voting shall normally be done by show of hands, but the chair reserves the right to call for a secret ballot. Only regular and life members of the association are allowed to vote. In case of a tie, the chair shall have the deciding vote.”

Appointment of parliamentarian: Phil Milo, NSLS #277

Moment of Silence:

Everyone was asked to stand and join in a moment of silence for those who are no longer with us since our last AGM, former members we have lost as well as those who have lost friends and family this year. As the names are called there was accompanied by a power point presentation.

Donald C. Pugsley, NSLS #471  
 George R. Sellers, NSLS #435  
 Garnett E. Bowman, NSLS #359  
 Kenneth M. Lord, NSLS #516  
 Kenneth V. Reardon, NSLS #278

Gerald H. Bourbonniere, NSLS #581  
 Donald T. Gillis, NSLS #395  
 John S. Pope, NSLS #140  
 Graeme H. King, NSLS #262  
 Ronald G. Wentzell, NSLS #263

Introduction of new members:

Alice Williams, NSLS #676  
 Dylan Mossman, NSLS #677

Matthew Williams, NSLS #678  
 Bryan Conrad, NSLS #679

Kevin Robb, chair of the Board of Examiners, to swear in the newest member, Brent MacKenzie, NSLS #680.

Introduction of the Out of Town Guests:

British Columbia – Chris Cryderman & Bea Norkham  
 Alberta – Steve & Tami Yanish  
 Saskatchewan – Courtney Tripp  
 Manitoba – Arno & Kim Stoffel  
 Ontario – Al Jeraj  
 Quebec – Orlando Rodriguez

New Brunswick – Jaret & Nada Guimond  
 PEI – Bob Wakelin  
 Newfoundland – Aubrey & Mary Burt  
 Canada Lands Surveyors – Rob Pinkerton & Carrie Kitchen  
 Professional Surveyors Canada (PSC) – Michael & Erica Thompson  
 Maine – Matthew Ek

Introduction of 2019 Exhibitors:

Cansel  
Leica Geosystems Ltd.  
Arthur J. Gallagher Insurance Co.

Carlson Software  
Brant Positioning Technology

Introduction of Council Members:

President Clark introduced the Council that served for 2018-2019 as follows:

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Zone 1 – Kyle Bower    | DNR Appointee – not yet appointed by minister |
| Zone 2 – Chris Parsons | Vice President – Kevin Lombard                |
| Zone 3 – Andy DeCoste  | Past President – Ken Cormier                  |
| Zone 4 – Eric Whyte    | Public Representative – Doug MacInnis         |

A) Secretary’s report on the convention attendance and membership roll.

Secretary Fred Hutchinson gave a report on the membership status.

- Number of members registered for the convention **123**.
- Number of members present for the meeting (quorum 35) **113**.

|                  | 2019       | 2018       | 2017       | 2017       | 2016       | 2015       | 2014       | 2013       | 2012       | 2011       | 2010       | 2009       | 2008       | 2007       | 2006       |
|------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Dues \$</b>   | 1500       | 1500       | 1500       | 1500       | 1500       | 1200       | 1200       | 1200       | 1200       | 1200       | 1100       | 1100       | 1100       | 800        | 800        |
| <b>Regular</b>   | 134        | 145        | 146        | 146        | 145        | 149        | 151        | 154        | 155        | 152        | 155        | 161        | 165        | 172        | 173        |
| <b>Life</b>      | 20         | 20         | 21         | 21         | 21         | 21         | 19         | 18         | 20         | 19         | 18         | 19         | 19         | 19         | 19         |
| <b>Retired</b>   | 33         | 33         | 34         | 34         | 33         | 31         | 33         | 34         | 35         | 41         | 35         | 35         | 35         | 34         | 39         |
| <b>Candidate</b> | 21         | 20         | 26         | 26         | 27         | 28         | 24         | 21         | 20         | 25         | 24         | 21         | 24         | 24         | 23         |
| <b>Honorary</b>  | 4          | 4          | 4          | 4          | 4          | 4          | 4          | 3          | 3          | 3          | 3          | 3          | 4          | 4          | 4          |
| <b>Associate</b> | 0          | 0          | 1          | 1          | 1          | 1          | 1          | 1          | 1          | 2          | 4          | 5          | 7          | 7          | 3          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>     | <b>212</b> | <b>222</b> | <b>232</b> | <b>232</b> | <b>231</b> | <b>232</b> | <b>232</b> | <b>231</b> | <b>234</b> | <b>242</b> | <b>239</b> | <b>244</b> | <b>254</b> | <b>260</b> | <b>261</b> |

B) Approval of the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting minutes:

Held at Keltic Lodge Resort in Ingonish Beach on October 17-20,2018 and published in the Spring 2019 issue of the Nova Scotian Surveyor pages 18 - 24.

Call for errors or omissions: none

Call for mover to approve the minutes: Zack Ryan

Call for seconder: Andy DeCoste      *Motion carried*

C) Business arising from the minutes of the 68th Annual Meeting: none

D) Report of Council meetings, highlights and President`s activities:

Council meetings held since the last AGM are April 9, May 3, May 27 (teleconference) and September 6, 2019. President Clark went over some of the issue`s council dealt with over the past year.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Strategic Planning                      | PD reporting, compliance, and program               |
| Finances and the budget                 | Digital submissions and meetings with the Registrar |
| Boundary line uncertainties             | General of land titles and staff                    |
| Instrument of subdivision under the MGA | Staff succession planning and office purchase offer |
| Foreign accreditation                   |   |

E) Executive Directors Report:

The report is published in the Nova Scotia Surveyor. An update was given to the membership on succession planning and the executive director position. There are negotiations with one candidate and as soon as something is in writing the membership will be notified.

F) Financial Report:

The 2018 financial report is published in the fall issue of the NS Surveyor.

The finances are open to any member who might have questions. Do not hesitate to call the office with inquiries.

G) Introduction of New Executive and Council for 2019-2020:

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| President – Kevin Lombard       | Zone 3 – Andy DeCoste                     |
| Vice President – Peter Berrigan | Zone 4 – Eric Whyte                       |
| Past President – Nathan Clark   | DNR Appointee – not appointed by minister |
| Zone 1 – Kyle Bower             | Public Representative – not appointed     |
| Zone 2 – Geoffrey Dick          |   |

Service awards were handed out to the following members: Chris Parsons and Andy DeCoste.

“Surveyor of the Year” 2019 has been awarded to Nicholas Dearman, NSLS #530 and John Conn, NSLS #517.

H) Elections: none

I) Report of Committees:

Committee reports are published in the Nova Scotia Surveyor

- Complaints Committee: Glenn Crews, chair
  - 7 complaints last year
  - 2 withdrawn
  - 5 dismissed
  - 3 new complaints



One of the complaints had a motion of action through PSC officers and director's insurance, only to withdraw the complaint costing approximately \$23,500.

With a boundary dispute the complaints committee look for misconduct. The public wants the committee to decide right and wrong, something complaints can not decide on.

LIST OF MEMBERS: 134 regular, 20 life, 33 retired, 21 candidate & 4 honorary  
Lost 11 members over the last year.

Kevin Lombard gave his gratitude and sincere appreciation on becoming the new president.

Ken Cormier was with the presented the past presidents pin.

Nathan Clark was presented with the president's plaque.

### **BREAK 9:50**

Update from Jody Isenor on foreign credentials.

Update from Mike Thompson chair of PSC.

Presentation by Dwayne Cross, P Eng. Of Dept. of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal and Driveway separations.

#### J) Approval of Budget:

Approve the 2020 budget

**MOVED BY:** Kevin Lombard

**SECONDED BY:** Art Backman

*Motion Carried*

### **MOTION #1**

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Association of Nova Scotia Land Surveyors is desirous of defining the consequences/penalties for not complying with the requirements of the Professional Development Program as laid out in Sections 36(6) to Section 36(8) of the By-Laws of the Association of Nova Scotia Land Surveyors made pursuant to the Land Surveyors Act.

**AND WHEREAS** Section 36(8) of the By-Laws incorrectly references section 36(6) rather than Section 36(7).

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the following changes be made to Sections 36(6) to 36(8) by striking out the words so indicated below and adding the words highlighted in yellow below.

Section 36(6) The Professional Development Committee may consider medical reasons **or exceptional circumstances of a member** as exemptions to this Program.

Section 36(7) Where a member fails to complete the required professional development credits within **any reporting period** ~~the time determined by the Professional Development Committee, which time may at the discretion of the Professional Development Committee be extended to take into account the exceptional circumstances of the member,~~ the following shall apply;

- (a) In the case of an active member, membership shall be suspended for 30 days, notice shall be posted on the Association web site for the duration of the suspension, and the member shall not be eligible to engage in the practice of professional land surveying;
- (b) In the case of a life member who practices land surveying, a 30-day notice shall be posted on the Association web site and the member shall not be eligible to engage in the practice of professional land surveying for 30 days;
- (c) In the case of a retired member, the member will no longer be classified as a voting member.

Section 36(8) In order to lift any suspension imposed pursuant to subsection ~~(6)~~ (7), the member must ~~meet the requirements of the professional development program,~~ pay a reinstatement fee of \$500.00, ~~and all other requirements for renewal of membership as set out in the Act and Regulations.~~

**MOVED BY:** Ray Pottier

**SECONDED BY:** Fred Hutchinson

## DISCUSSION

Art Backman: move to change Section 36(8) pay a reinstatement fee of 50% of Active Members annual dues to half of the regular members annual dues.

**MOVED BY:** Art Backman

**SECONDED BY:** Kyle Harrington

## MOTION #1

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Section 36(8) In order to lift any suspension imposed pursuant to subsection ~~(6)~~ (7), the member must ~~meet the requirements of the professional development program,~~ pay a reinstatement fee **of half of the regular members annual dues.**, ~~and all other requirements for renewal of membership as set out in the Act and Regulations.~~

***Motion CARRIED***

DISCUSSION

Garnet Wentzell: move to amend the motion by inserting the following and will read as: In the case of an active member, membership **shall be suspended and the member shall be given a 30 day notice that the suspension is in effect for a period of** 30 days, notice shall be posted on the...

**MOVED BY:** Garnet Wentzell

**SECONDED BY:** Doug MacLeod

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Association of Nova Scotia Land Surveyors is desirous of defining the consequences/penalties for not complying with the requirements of the Professional Development Program as laid out in Sections 36(6) to Section 36(8) of the By-Laws of the Association of Nova Scotia Land Surveyors made pursuant to the Land Surveyors Act.

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Section 36(7) Where a member fails to complete the required professional development credits within **any reporting period** ~~the time determined by the Professional Development Committee, which time may at the discretion of the Professional Development Committee be extended to take into account the exceptional circumstances of the member,~~ the following shall apply;

(a) In the case of an active member, membership **shall be suspended and the member shall be given a 30 day notice that the suspension is in effect for a period of 30 days, notice shall be posted on the Association web site for the duration of the suspension,** and the member shall not be eligible to engage in the practice of professional land surveying;

(b) In the case of a life member who practices land surveying, **a 30-day notice shall be posted on the Association web site and** the member shall not be eligible to engage in the practice of professional land surveying **for 30 days;**

(c) In the case of a retired member, the member will no longer be classified as a voting member.



Section 36(8) In order to lift any suspension imposed pursuant to subsection (6) (7), the member must meet the requirements of the professional development program, pay a reinstatement fee of half of the regular member annual dues, and all other requirements for renewal of membership as set out in the Act and Regulations.

***Motion CARRIED***

Garry Parker: move to change “shall” and replace with “may”

**MOVED BY:** Garry Parker

**SECONDED BY:** Tom Giovannetti

Phil Milo “ruled out of order, this motion defeats the purpose of the entire motion to start with”

Jim Gunn moved to revisit the budget

**MOVED BY:** Jim Gunn

**SECONDED BY:** Dennis Prendergast

***Motion CARRIED***

Approval of Budget:

Approve the 2020 budget

**MOVED BY:** Kevin Lombard

**SECONDED BY:** Art Backman

***Motion Carried***

**OPEN FORUM:**

Ray Pottier gave a report on the governance committee

Art Backman looking to keep historical records up to date and available

Tom Giovannetti agrees with Ray Pottiers’ concerns

Glenn Crews suggested that the organizational chart be published in the Surveyor annually to keep track of historical records

Jody Isenor moved to revisit motion #1 to assure clarification

**MOVED BY:** Jody Isenor

**SECONDED BY:** Dan Gerard

*Motion Carried*

**Jody Isenor: move to remove** shall be suspended and the member shall be given a 30 day notice that the suspension is in effect for a period of from section A and reinsert after being given a 30-day notice after the following shall apply in Section 36(7)

**MOVED BY:** Jody Isenor

**SECONDED BY:** Kyle Bower

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Association of Nova Scotia Land Surveyors is desirous of defining the consequences/penalties for not complying with the requirements of the Professional Development Program as laid out in Sections 36(6) to Section 36(8) of the By-Laws of the Association of Nova Scotia Land Surveyors made pursuant to the Land Surveyors Act.

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Section 36(7) Where a member fails to complete the required professional development credits within **any reporting period** ~~the time determined by the Professional Development Committee, which time may at the discretion of the Professional Development Committee be extended to take into account the exceptional circumstances of the member,~~ the following shall apply **after being given a 30-day notice**;

(a) In the case of an active member, membership shall be suspended **for 30 days, notice shall be posted on the Association web site for the duration of the suspension,** and the member shall not be eligible to engage in the practice of professional land surveying;

(b) In the case of a life member who practices land surveying, **a 30-day notice shall be posted on the Association web site and** the member shall not be eligible to engage in the practice of professional land surveying **for 30 days**;

(c) In the case of a retired member, the member will no longer be classified as a voting member.

Section 36(8) In order to lift any suspension imposed pursuant to subsection ~~(6)~~ **(7)**, the member must ~~meet the requirements of the professional development program,~~ pay a reinstatement fee **of half of the regular member annual dues,** and ~~all other requirements for renewal of membership as set out in the Act and Regulations.~~

*Motion Carried*

Thank you for the hospitality from the out of town guests.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Reception at 6:15 pm in the lower level hallway with dinner at 7:00 pm in the Oak Room

Dance at 9:00 pm with Toy Shed

Seminar tomorrow at 8:00 am

An ACLS regional meeting will be in the Spruce Room on this level at the end of the meeting



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